



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



16 May 2023

Tripoli

- Tajoura: Dutch Embassy reopens
- TIP: SDF / 111 mobilisation

Nationwide / General

- Mizdah: Zintan military activity sparks offensive rumours
- Benghazi: MPs confirm Bashagha replacement discussions
- Norland-Dbeibah discuss Sudan
- Al-Zawiya: Kidnapping
- Misrata: 2 Turkish medical staff freed, abductors arrested
- ACA suspends GNU Minister

Oil & Gas Update

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

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SUMMARY

Key Points

- 6+6 committee pursue election law discussion
- US renews pressure to hold elections in 2023
- Oil output stable but LNA blockade possible

Political

The absence of a solution to the political deadlock and continuing legitimacy crisis over the GNU's mandate continue to define the context of heightened political uncertainty. In the current context, there are two political initiatives at odds with one another. The pro Al-Meshri bloc within the High Council of State (HCS) recently voted in favour of the House of Representatives' (HoR) 13TH constitutional amendment, while key international actors have announced support for the political initiative proposed by UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily.

Intense political manoeuvring will likely define the next few weeks against the backdrop of Bathily's proposed formation of a High-level Steering Panel for Libya. Key contentious issues such as the eligibility of dual nationals and military officials to run for president will continue to divide Libyan stakeholders and undermine progress towards a solution to the stalemate.

The UN SRSG's proposal is already facing resistance from key domestic actors such as the HoR. Consequently, Whispering Bell assesses actors opposed to the UN-led initiative will double down on their campaigns to form a new unified government as a hedge against the UN push to establish a new dialogue forum. In turn, renewed efforts to form a new government will mount the pressure on the GNU and PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Amid US pressure to hold elections, Dbeibah may be compelled to reshuffle his cabinet and/or organise limited legislative elections. Of note, Dbeibah announced the formation of a government committee to implement and coordinate elections on 09 March, while Bathily provided further details on his proposal to form a High-Level Steering Panel for Libya in a press briefing on 11 March.

Security

Tripoli is operational and continues to present a relatively permissive operational environment. Sporadic incidents will continue to define security atmospherics in the western region. From a security standpoint, the status quo and stable atmospherics are set to remain as is in Tripoli. Low-impact and localised flashpoints outside government offices are possible but are unlikely to escalate or impact business operations. Targeted attacks against HoR MPs, HCS members, and other political figures are likely as political tensions peak over the next few weeks. Beyond Tripoli, protesters in Al-Zawiya reopened roads and government buildings following civil disobedience sparked by a deteriorating security environment. The temporary stop to the protests came in response to a security plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad.

Oil & Gas

Disruptions to production are likely despite evidence the LNA is yet to support a coordinated oil blockade. In his latest visit to Libya, US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns allegedly reiterated to Haftar the importance of safeguarding oil and gas facilities and production.

TRIPOLI

- **Report n°6349:** Tajoura: Dutch Embassy reopens

The Dutch Embassy in Tripoli inaugurated its newly-renovated embassy office in Tripoli's Tajoura area in the presence of Secretary-General of the Dutch Foreign Ministry Paul Huijts on 15 May. The Embassy stated that their renewed presence in the capital highlights its commitment towards promoting peace and stability in Libya.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Tajoura
Incident Date: 15 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Dutch Embassy
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Monitor the diplomatic missions' endeavors to reopen its embassies.

- **Report n°6350:** TIP: SDF / 111 mobilisation

Reports indicate the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) dispatched dozens of technicals to secure Tripoli International Airport (TIP) in the morning on 16 May. In addition to that, a couple of trucks loaded with a couple of armoured personnel carrier (APC), affiliated with GNU MoD 111 Brigade arrived to Tripoli International Airport (TIP) to secure it, in the afternoon on 16 May. Of note, such mobilisations have been reported in the past and come to defuse tensions between armed formations competing over control of the airport, which is undergoing maintenance.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: TIP
Incident Date: 16 May
Timestamp: Morning; Afternoon
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: SDF; 111
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the military movements across

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Mizdah: Zintan military activity sparks offensive rumours**

Anti-GNU Zintan military commander Osama Juwaili mobilised forces in Mizdah, Nasmah, and Qaryat in the evening on 15 May. The forces claim they are officially engaged in local law enforcement operations to combat smuggling and irregular migration. However,

unsubstantiated reports allege the move aims to curb pro-GNU influence in the area by driving out the Stabilisation Support Agency's (SSA). The military activity sparked rumours that Juwaili is readying forces for an offensive after receiving military assets from the LNA including advanced defence systems.

On 14 May, Zintan patrols affiliated with Juwaili deployed on the roads between Sakreej Checkpoint and Wadi Merseet in the evening. Over 20 Sub-Saharan African irregular migrants were arrested onboard an unidentified vehicle and handed over to the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM).

- **Benghazi: MPs confirm Bashagha replacement discussions**

Increased rumours of GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha's replacement by the House of Representatives (HoR) have made the rounds over recent weeks. The development was confirmed after at least 60 MPs held a consultative session in which they proposed holding a hearing session on Bashagha and discussed the possibility of his replacement. Bashagha is accused of carrying out administrative and financial violations, as well as failing to seat his government in the capital and topple the GNU. MPs will reconvene on 16 May and continue discussions on a mechanism to replace Bashagha, according to reports.

In the same context, unconfirmed reports allege MPs will also discuss replacing HoR Speaker Aguila Saleh with MP Fatahalla Al-Saiety due to Saleh's refusal to appoint GNS Finance Minister Osama Hammad as Bashagha's successor. Hammad enjoys the support of the Haftar family.

Of note, the HoR announced it will hold plenary sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays every week on 15 May.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports allege LNA Tariq Ibn Ziyad commander Saddam Haftar and other senior LNA commanders will meet with prominent western region military commanders to discuss a GNU cabinet reshuffle in Cairo on 16 May.

Update: GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha assigned his Deputy Ali Al-Qatrani to assume his duties and delegated all his powers to him in a letter addressed to the House of Representatives (HoR) Presidency and members of parliament on 15 May. Of note, the letter was published on the GNS official Facebook page.

Meanwhile, HoR Speaker Abdallah Belhaiq announced a majority vote by MPs to dismiss Bashagha and refer him for investigation in a closed-door session chaired by First Deputy Speaker Fawzi Al-Nuwairi and Second Deputy Speaker Al-Hadi Al-Saghir at the HoR HQ in Benghazi on 16 May. Belhaiq stated that Bashagha will be succeeded by GNS Finance Minister Osama Hammad.

Additional unconfirmed reports alleged that Bashagha arrived to Misrata city, in the afternoon on 16 May.

- **Norland-Dbeibah discuss Sudan**

On 15 May, US Special Envoy to Libya Richard Norland discussed in a phone call with GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah the shared interest between Libya and the US to secure a ceasefire in Sudan, agreeing that the Sudanese conflict lends urgency to Libya's UN-

facilitated political process and the need to control Libyan territory and borders through unified security institutions under a “sovereign elected government” as reported by the US Embassy in Libya. The two sides also discussed the need to implement a clear legal framework for civil society organisations that have a role in the electoral process.

- **Al-Zawiya: Kidnapping**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants kidnapped a local man in Al-Zawiya’s Al-Harsha area on 15 May. There are no further details available.

- **Misrata: 2 Turkish medical staff freed, abductors arrested**

The pro-GNU Joint Operations Force (JOF) arrested a criminal gang charged with the abduction and extortion of foreign medical personnel working at the Libyan-Turkish Hospital in Misrata on 15 May. The Force stated that they received a report on the abduction of two Turkish medical staff members while they were returning to their residence. The abductors set a ransom for their release.

In response, the Public Prosecutor in Misrata ordered a probe into the incident, which led to arrests and release of the victims. The suspects confessed to carrying out the crime with the support of two other individuals, who were later arrested.

- **ACA suspends GNU Minister**

Administrative Control Authority (ACA) Head Suleiman Al-Shanti issued a decision to dismiss GNU Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Adel Jumaa and refer him for investigation on 16 May.

OIL & GAS UPDATE

Terminal Status

Es-Sider	Operational
Ras Lanuf	Operational
Mellitah	Closed for maintenance
Zawiya	Operational
Zueitina	Operational
Marsa Brega	Operational
Marsa Hariga	Operational
Bouri	Operational
Jurf	Operational

Es-Sider: Stable terminal operations and security atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6351:** Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

Analysis/Comment: N/A

Location: N/A
Incident Date: N/A
Timestamp: N/A
Source: N/A
Veracity: N/A
Actors: Low

Impact: N/A

Recommendations: N/A

VERACITY SCALE

A – Reliable:

This information is almost certainly true. A is Reliable, "No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of complete reliability". It is reported by one or more credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased. The reporting is sourced based on widely available or verifiable information. The information is consistent with everything our team knows about this subject.

B – Fairly Reliable:

This information is probably true. This information is possibly true. B is "Fairly Reliable" for "minor doubt". It is reported one or more mostly credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased on this subject. The reporting is primarily based on verifiable information. The information is mostly consistent with everything our team knows about this subject, but may contain new or surprising information given credibility on the strength of the publication or author.

C – Unreliable:

This information is probably false. This information is almost certainly false. "not usually reliable" for "significant doubt," and "unreliable" for "Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information". It appears in social media or an unreliable publication, and may be written by an author that is not known to us or is known to be less reliable. The reporting is thin, largely dependent on anonymous sources or unverifiable accounts from social media or limited access areas. The information is consistent enough with our knowledge of the subject to be possible, but contains sufficient discrepancies to make it seem unlikely. The information is mostly or entirely inconsistent with our knowledge of the subject.

ACRONYM LIST

AQ	Al-Qaeda
BAM	Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BEN	Benghazi International Airport
BDB	Benghazi Defence Brigade
BPMC	Brega Petroleum Marketing Company
BRSC	Benghazi Revolutionary Shura Council
CBL	Central Bank of Libya
CESF	Constitution and Elections Support Force
CNI	Critical National Infrastructure
CDA	Constitutional Drafting Assembly
DACOCT	Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism
DDR	Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration
DF	Direct Fire
DMSC	Derna Mujahideen Shura Security Council
GACS	General Administration of Central Support
GASO	General Administration of Security Operations
GECOL	General Electricity Company of Libya
GMMR	Great Man-Made River
GNA	Government of National Accord
GNC	General National Congress
GNS	Government of National Stability
GNU	Government of National Unity
GTUC	Greater Trpoli Union Council
HCS	High Council of State
HNEC	High National Election Commission (HNEC)
HoR	House of Representatives
IDF	Indirect Fire
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOC	International Oil Company
IS	Islamic State
JMC	Joint Military Commission
LAB	Libyan Audit Bureau
LIFG	Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
LNA	Libyan National Army
LPA	Libyan Political Agreement
LPDF	Libyan Political Dialogue Forum
LROR	Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
MJI	Mitiga International Airport
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOGC	Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoO	Ministry of Oil

MoT	Ministry of Transportation
MRA	Misrata International Airport
NEE	No Expected Exposure
NIEE	No Immediate Expected Exposure
NFDK	No Further Details Known
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOC	National Oil Company
NSTR	Nothing Significant To Report
P3+2	France, Germany, Italy, UK, US
PC	Presidential Council
PFG	Petroleum Facilities Guard
RASCO	Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Processing Company
RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RTA	Road Traffic Accident
SAF	Small Arms Fire
SSA	Stabilisation Support Agency
SDF	Special Deterrence Force
TPF	Tripoli Protection Force
UNSRSG	United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WOC	Waha Oil Company